

CASE GT/W-21923/A/AC 533

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Group Art Unit:

ANNE FLISHER ET AL

Examiner:

APPLICATION NO: Not Yet Assigned

FILED: Concurrently Herewith

FOR: POLYMERISATION PROCESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants present the instant Preliminary Amendment for entry and consideration in order to place the instant application in better condition for examination on its merits and for allowance.

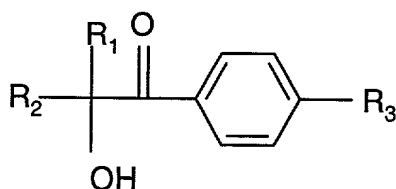
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due, or credit any overcharge, as a result of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-1935.

Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

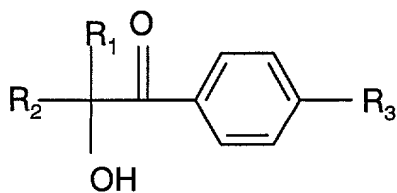
**Amend** claims 3-8, 11, 14 and 19 as follows:

3. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer in step (c) is subjected to ultraviolet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milliWatts.
4. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer is formed from acrylamide.
5. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer has an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.
6. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer formed by solution polymerisation.
7. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is soluble or dispersible in the aqueous monomer or monomer blend.
8. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or together form a C<sub>4-8</sub> cycloaliphatic ring, R<sub>3</sub> is H, C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl or -O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OH and n is 1-20.

11. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which step (c) is conducted simultaneous with a drying stage.
14. (amended) A method according to claim 12 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or together form a  $C_{4-8}$  cycloaliphatic ring,  $R_3$  is H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl or  $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$  and  $n$  is 1-20.

19. (amended) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a process defined by claim 1 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

**Insert** new claim 20 as follows:


20. (new) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a method according to claim 12 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

Remarks

Upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending. Multiple dependencies have been eliminated. New claim 20 is derived from claim 19. The amendments are a matter of form and are made without prejudice to claims directed thereto in this or a subsequent application. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants aver that the instant claims are now in better condition for examination on the merits. Early favorable action is respectfully solicited. Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative if minor amendments will further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted

  
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Amended Claims with Revisions

3. (amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the polymer in step (c) is subjected to ultraviolet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milliWatts.

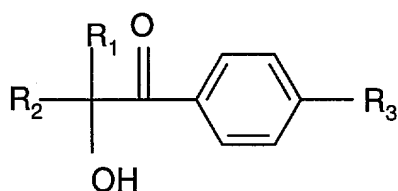
4. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 in which the polymer is formed from acrylamide.

5. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 in which the polymer has an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.

6. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 in which the polymer formed by solution polymerisation.

7. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is soluble or dispersible in the aqueous monomer or monomer blend.

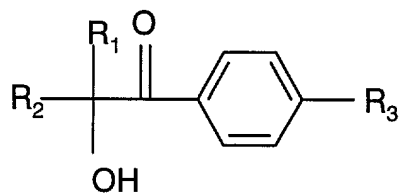
8. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are each independently  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl or together form a  $\text{C}_{4-8}$  cycloaliphatic ring,  $\text{R}_3$  is H,  $\text{C}_{1-2}$  alkyl or  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$  and  $n$  is 1-20.

11. (amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 in which step (c) is conducted simultaneous with a drying stage.

14. (amended) A method according to claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~ in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or together form a  $C_{4-8}$  cycloaliphatic ring,  $R_3$  is H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl or  $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$  and  $n$  is 1-20.

19. (amended) A water soluble or water swellable polymer ~~obtainable~~obtained by a process defined by any of claims 1 to 11, 17 or 18~~claim 1 or by a method according to anyone of claims 12 to 16~~ in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

20. (new) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a method according to claim 12 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.